

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-76 (canceled)

Claim 77 (currently amended): A method of screening for early stage prostate cancer, the method comprising a step of assaying, in a patient sample comprising prostate cells, an RNA comprising a Gag or Pol encoding sequence of a human endogenous mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV)-like subgroup 2 (HML-2) retrovirus, HERV-K(CH), wherein an ~~increase~~ increased level of said RNA of at least 150% relative to a control sample level of RNA from cells that are not prostate tumor cells indicates that the patient should undergo further testing for the presence of prostate cancer.

Claims 78-82 (canceled)

Claim 83 (currently amended): The method of claim 77 wherein the RNA ~~is comprising~~ comprises a Pol encoding sequence of HERV-K(CH).

Claim 84 (previously presented): The method of claim 83 wherein the RNA comprises a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:26.

Claim 85-113 (canceled)

Claim 114 (previously presented): The method of claim 77 wherein the step of assaying is preceded by a step of enriching RNA in the patient sample.

Claim 115 (previously presented): The method of claim 77 wherein the expression product is detected using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Strand Displacement Amplification (SDA), Self Sustaining Sequence Replication (SSSR), Ligase Chain Reaction (LCR), Transcription Mediated Amplification (TMA) or Nucleic Acid Sequence Based Amplification (NASBA).

Claim 116 (previously presented): The method of claim 115 wherein the PCR is Reverse-Transcription PCR (RT-PCR).

Claim 117 (currently amended): The method of claim 77 wherein the RNA ~~is comprising~~ comprises a Gag encoding sequence of HERV-K(CH).

Claim 118 (canceled)